

# Labor Resources for Walterboro, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Walterboro, South Carolina. Walterboro is located in Colleton County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Walterboro.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in Walterboro, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	67,490	230,945	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	28,546	100,142	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	1,829	6,436	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.4%	6.4%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	104	269	22,196
Average Wages	Colleton County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$457	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Walterboro, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	28,546	100,142	2,046,179
Change since 2000	944	-1,049	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	67,490	230,945	4,198,068
Change since 2000	4,540	14,936	186,056
Projected 2010	71,901	253,292	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	32,864	113,297	2,040,261
Female	34,626	117,648	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	12,431	45,497	875,330
Ages 35-49	14,947	50,683	925,330
Ages 50-64	11,036	38,705	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	31,765	111,035	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	21,927	68,460	778,054
Some College	13,337	47,286	500,194
Associate Degree	4,385	15,625	173,428
Bachelors Degree	7,918	32,138	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,222	17,609	178,529

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and  
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for Walterboro, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	26,717	93,707	1,906,571

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Colleton County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>5,816</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>9,439</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	261	542	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	128	434	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	49	156	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	224	766	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	5	462	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	1	150	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	8	450	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	6	85	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	23	141	7,846
Food manufacturing	6	80	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	6	677	40,207
Textile product mills	34	108	9,724
Apparel manufacturing		5	5,321
Paper manufacturing			14,710
Printing and related support activities	11	104	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	93	373	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	80	265	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>11,304</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>10,656</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>10,566</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>7,220</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

### Largest Industries by Total Employment In Colleton County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
CCX Fiberglass Products Div	Walterboro	Weaving of fiberglass fabrics	304	1966
Asten Johnson Inc	Walterboro	Paper makers, felts & fabrics	165	1955
Dayco Products LLC	Walterboro	Automotive belts	155	1973
Walterboro Veneer Co	Walterboro	Hardwood veneer	135	1964
Carolina Visuals LLC	Smoaks	Flags	120	1999
Rockford Manufacturing Ltd	Walterboro	Pre -manufactured steel buildings	108	1997
Coastal Lumber Co	Walterboro	Lumber ,chips, sawdust ,bark	65	1950
Floralife	Walterboro	Products for floral industry	60	1991

### Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	28,546	100,142	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	944	-1,049	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	42%	43%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	1,829	6,436	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.4%	6.4%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	104	269	22,196
Manufacturing	3	138	19,196
Distribution	102	127	1,213
Service	-	3	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	11,807	35,500	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

<b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Colleton County, SC</b>	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	34
Data Processing Technology	34
Engineering Technologies (Total)	17
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	*
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	33
Industrial Electronics	20
HVAC	*
Precision Production (Total)	22
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	1

<b>Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees</b>		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Colleton County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$457	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$23,784	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Colleton County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$31,358	\$39,027
Wood product	\$28,369	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$24,027	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$33,329	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In Walterboro and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Colleton Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	*	*	*
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$7.89	\$9.65	\$10.29
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$11.55	\$13.37	\$15.99
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.90	\$11.20	\$12.29
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.25	\$14.49	\$17.83
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$10.20	\$13.13	\$14.80
Machinists	\$7.90	\$12.77	\$16.65
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$6.67	\$9.46	\$12.50
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	\$8.38	\$9.77	\$11.04
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	*	*	*
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.22	\$13.75	\$15.96
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$10.00	\$12.03	\$13.31
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$7.12	\$10.53	\$14.99
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Colleton Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$26,740	\$39,860	\$51,400
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$27,020	\$38,420	\$47,640
Industrial Engineers	*	*	*
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,520	\$58,740	\$67,520

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available